

Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 8-10, 14, 16, 17, and 19 were the subject of the office action dated November 3, 2003. Claims 22 and 23 are added by this response. Thus, claims 1, 5, 8-10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, and 23 are now presented for further consideration.

The applicants wish to thank the examiner for indicating that claims 5, 8, 9, 14, 17, and 18 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejections.

Claims 5, 8, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, because SEQ ID NOS:6 and 8 (having two added N-terminal residues) are not fragments of SEQ ID NO:2. Claims 1 and 10 are hereby amended to include reference to SEQ ID NOS:6 and 8. Claims 22 and 23 are added accordingly. This should overcome this rejection.

The specification is amended as suggested by the examiner to correct an apparent typographical error. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. This should overcome the objection to the disclosure. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 18 are similarly amended. This should overcome the related 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection of these claims and of claim 19.

Claims 1, 10, and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,262,159, Aronson, Nagamatsu, Pfannenstiel, Nicholls, and Wabiko. The “fragments” language in claims 1 and 10 has been removed in favor of the recitation of the segments and sequences now in these claims.

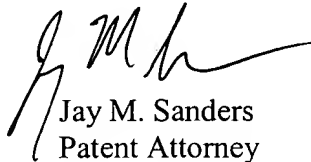
The obviousness rejection should be rendered moot, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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